GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:417
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2006
SHORT SUPPLY OF COAL AND GAS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power generation has been affected due to short supply of coal and gas during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the quantum of power in terms of mega watt generated with coal and gas during the year 2005-06;

(c) the estimated loss of power in terms of mega watt; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure adequate supply of coal and gas to the power plants?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 417 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 12.05.2006 REGARDING SHORT SUPPLY OF COAL AND GAS.

(a) : Yes, Sir. There was shortage of gas supply to gas-based power stations in the country and 25 stations reported generation loss due to shortage of gas during the year 2005-06. Six of the Coal-based power stations of NTPC with a total capacity of 7510 MW reported generation loss due to shortage of coal during 2005-06.

(b) : The quantum of power generated by the coal and gas based power stations during 2005-06 was as under:

- Coal based power stations: 405.374 Billion Unit
- Gas based power stations:
60.128 Billion Unit

(c) : The loss of generation due to shortage of fuel supply during the year 2005- 06 was as under:- Coal based power stations: 1.654 Billion Unit - Gas based power stations: 23.88 Billion Unit Generation loss with reference to 90% Plant Load Factor at which gas-based power stations are capable of operating the actual PLF was about 60%. But for the aforementioned generation loss of 25.534 BU, the total generation would have been 103.4% of the target for the year and about 9.5% more than the actual generation during the preceding year.

(d) : Following steps are being taken by the Government to augment supply of coal and gas to the power plants in the country. i) Coal : - Monitoring and Supervision: The following steps have been taken to ensure better availability of coal in all the power stations: - The coal supply position to thermal power stations is vigorously monitored in Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power on daily basis. - A Sub-group of the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee
headed by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Coal, consisting of the representatives from the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority , Ministry of Railways and Coal India Ltd., every week reviews and resolves the problems of coal supply to thermal power stations having coal stocks below 7 days requirement. - The Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee, headed by Secretary (Co-ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat, reviews the coal production and supply to thermal power stations in the country every month. - Short-term Measures Ministry of Coal took action to enhance the production of coal in
the country and production did improve. - Coal is being imported to meet the shortfall from domestic sources. During 2005-06, 11.22 million tonne (equivalent to about 16 million tonne of domestic coal) of coal was imported. - Long-term Measures - New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants. - Stream lined procedure by Ministry of Environment & Forests to expedite the environmental / forest clearances to pending coal mining projects. As a result of various measures taken, the coal supply position in the thermal power stations improved considerably with the coal stock from about 10.3 million tonne as on 1st April, 2005 to about 18.0 million tonne as on 31st March, 2006 and the number of power stations with coal stock less than 7 days also reduced from 19 to 1 during the corresponding period. ii) Gas : Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has enunciated following action to improve the availability of gas for power stations: - Augmentation of production of natural gas from the gas fields/wells. - Increasing availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for exploration and production (E&P) activities in various sedimentary basins of the country under the New Exploration Licensing Policy

(NELP). - Encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) and also making efforts for import of gas through international pipeline projects. - In order to explore and produce new sources of natural gas from coal bearing areas, government has formulated a Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy providing attractive fiscal and contractual framework for exploration and production of CBM in the country.